

Tank-farm baseline approved by ORP, CH2M HILL

Geoff Tyree, CH2M HILL Hanford Group

The Office of River Protection and CH2M HILL Hanford Group have signed a document that spells out, in greater detail, the scope, schedule and cost estimate for safely closing Hanford's tank-farm facilities within an accelerated timeframe.

The work includes efforts to safely retrieve millions of gallons of radioactive and hazardous waste from 177 large underground tanks so it can be treated, and to dispose of the waste and close the tanks.

Key activities include these accelerated cleanup initiatives announced last fall:

- Moving the rest of the liquid waste to safer double-shell tanks
- Closing up to 40 tanks by October 2006
- Retrieving about a million gallons of transuranic tank waste and packaging it for disposal at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant in New Mexico
- Treating a portion of the low-activity tank waste.

The document, known as the *Tank Farms Mission Acceleration Life Cycle Baseline Change Request*, is the result of many months of collaborative effort by ORP and CH2M HILL to update the current project baseline to align it with the *Performance Management Plan for the Accelerated Cleanup of the Hanford Site*. In fact, the new baseline has exceeded the expectations of the performance management plan by projecting savings of more than \$6 billion.

The new baseline incorporates ORP's Integrated Mission Acceleration Plan signed March 13, which details strategies for accomplishing the "what" and "how" of Hanford tank cleanup. The baseline is the tool that spells out the "when" by translating the acceleration plan into work activities, using a relatively new management tool called the Integrated Mission Execution Schedule.



Roy Schepens, Office of River Protection manager, and Dave Amerine (left), CH2M HILL Hanford Group deputy general manager, sign the agreement establishing a new baseline to accelerate Hanford tank cleanup. The baseline describes in detail the scope, schedule and cost estimate of work to safely close Hanford's tank facilities.

What changes are in the new baseline?

Here's how the new tank-farms mission acceleration baseline request compares to the current baseline:

- More work will be completed 11 years earlier for \$2 billion less
- It incorporates about \$4.3 billion worth of new work in single-shell tank closure; retrieval and disposal of transuranic tank waste; and supplemental treatment of low-activity tank waste.

When compared with expected costs outlined in the *Hanford Performance Management Plan*, the new baseline will save more than \$6.3 billion.

"The 'why' of Hanford cleanup is clear," said Ed Aromi, president and general manager of CH2M HILL

Continued on page 21.

Tank-farm baseline approved by ORP, CH2M HILL, cont.

Hanford Group. “We have a clear mandate from the public, our regulators, our customer, Congress and the various stakeholders to work safely and responsibly to clean up and close these facilities so they no longer pose a risk to the environment, public health or our workforce.”

The revised baseline was signed on April 4, and is now in Washington, D.C., for a DOE Headquarters review.

“This is the best integrated baseline we have had at ORP,” said John Swailes, ORP assistant manager for the Tank Farms organization. “It clearly identifies how the tank-farm work ties into the Waste Treatment Plant, and identifies the technical pathway for closing Hanford’s tanks.”

“The new baseline represents a distinct improvement to the former baseline, and it clearly lays out the activities required for accelerating Hanford tank cleanup and closure,” said Delmar Noyes, director of ORP’s Tank Farms and Projects division.

An expedited review of the new baseline by ORP was made possible through a collaborative approach to baseline development. Throughout the development process, CH2M HILL and ORP co-hosted detailed review meetings. Near the end of the development process, senior management of both organizations participated in a critical cost-and-schedule review session aimed at challenging assumptions, estimates and commitments.

“ORP and CH2M HILL have been committed to working together to ensure the magnitude of this change was thoroughly communicated, understood and agreed to by both organizations,” said Tom Hoertkorn, ORP project manager for the ORP Baseline Change Request review team. ■



A Hanford crew replaces a pump in the first tank slated for closure, single-shell Tank C-106. Key ORP and CH2M HILL activities in the acceleration baseline for the tank farms include moving the rest of the liquid waste to safer double-shell tanks; retrieving solid tank waste and closing single-shell tanks; retrieving and packaging transuranic tank waste; and treating a portion of the low-activity tank waste with supplemental (non-Waste Treatment Plant) methods.